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21 Feb 1995

Memorandum For:

[REDACTED]  
Chief/Office for Ground Forces  
Defense Intelligence Agency

From:

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[REDACTED]  
Director of Research and Development  
Central Intelligence Agency

Subject:

Declassification and Cooperation in  
Response to Congressionally Directed  
STAR GATE Program Review

1. Recent Congressional language directed that the STAR GATE program be transferred from DIA to CIA by July 1, 1995. In that language, Congress directed a twenty-year retrospective review of STAR GATE program activities. This review requires an inventory and analysis of the relevant files at both DIA and CIA. CIA has collected its own files and held cooperative meetings with DIA STAR GATE personnel to acquire relevant DIA files. CIA also has contacted the National Research Council in order to assemble a Blue Ribbon Panel to actually conduct the review. Panel members will review all unclassified material and its recommendations will likewise be unclassified. During the coming months, CIA will continue to seek DIA's cooperation in obtaining relevant files and information to support this review.

2. Congress also stated that "the time has come for a re-evaluation of the classification of the existence of this effort as well as the results." In response to this request, CIA plans to declassify parts of its program immediately. Sponsorship of past CIA program activities and the technical results of those activities will be declassified. Following these immediate actions, CIA will convene a Congressionally mandated DCI classification review committee to conduct a detailed review of all CIA and DIA program documents archived during program transfer, including the actual targets and collection operations, and over the coming months, this committee will further declassify these documents where appropriate.

3. STAR GATE has an extraordinary nature and history and it's existence within the intelligence community remains controversial. CIA needs to develop a comprehensive understanding of the technical nature and utility of this program, in order to create a meaningful future management strategy as directed by Congress. To get at this understanding, and to facilitate the open-forum review described above, we ask that DIA take the following actions:

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a. Declassify DIA's sponsorship of STAR GATE and downgrade and declassify all technical reporting associated with STAR GATE,

b. Decompartment and remove all other classified STAR GATE documentation from "Limited Distribution" and evaluate this documentation for further declassification,

c. Transfer all DIA documents associated with STAR GATE, after declassification consideration, to CIA for archival purposes and further declassification review, and

d. Continue to assist CIA in executing the Blue Ribbon Panel Review by providing unclassified or declassified information relating to the program when requested by the panelists.

4. We anticipate interim recommendations from the NRC Blue Ribbon Panel review by the end of June. In the meantime, CIA will transfer to the NRC all unclassified DIA STAR GATE documents which CIA obtains. A bibliography of 45 unclassified documents was provided by [REDACTED] during their recent meeting. Unclassified documents will continue to be transferred as they are reviewed. Classified documents will not be reviewed by the NRC until they are declassified. We anticipate continued examination of all classified files by the DCI declassification review committee. [REDACTED] decisions are made final.

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